SB336

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SENATE FISH AND GAME

EXHIBIT NO ._

BILL NO.

Friday, February 6, 2009 11:06 AM

DATE Feb. 10, 2009

Dear Senators. Please vote for SB336.

I am an outfitter in the state of Montana, Wyoming and California. I have been in the outfitting business since 1980 and am a professional private lands biologist/outfitter/guide. Annually we take 175 different hunters on big game hunting trips in a combination of the above mentioned states. As a professional one of the saddest moments in hunting is when a big game animal is wounded and lost, all parties feel regret, the hunter for botching the shot, the guide for not being able to find the wounded animal and ultimately the sense that an animal has died needlessly with no chance of recovering meat or trophy. To be able to use a tracking dog would be a godsend to us!

Our organization has a "one stick" policy with archery hunters and treat wounded animals as a harvested animal. In years past in archery season we have had nearly a 100% shooting of animals in our camps. Out of all the animals "stuck" with an arrow we have recovered only 1/3 of them with meat and trophy, another 1/3 of them we find and the meat is spoiled but we recover antlers and another 1/3 of them we never find.

Our organization has always worked closely with the MDFWP and enjoy a good reputation with their law enforcement folks. Currently a recently retired warden sergeant Mark Anderson is employed seasonally with us. He supports the bill also.

Rob Arnaud

President

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